

and Dr. Dougherty, of Indiana, and Dr. Councilman, of Boston, were elected to fill the other vacancies. These men are all absolutely above question and each is distinguished among his fellows in his own section of the country. The mud-slinging, the abuse, will undoubtedly be continued; but do you think for a moment that men of the stamp chosen to be the responsible officers of the Association are going to do or be a party to the doing of anything that is not right, and honest and for the best interests of the Association and of the entire medical profession of this country?

The Delegates from California to the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association did everything in their power to secure the election of Los Angeles for the next annual session; but it was not to be. Under instructions from our own State Society, they were active and persistent in their efforts but several things were against them. St. Louis was also out for the meeting and the middle-western contingent worked mighty hard for that city. They argued that it was central and would draw a very large attendance, a desirable thing owing to the comparatively small attendance this year as a result of the very bad weather. And, of course, the majority of Easterners look with horror upon a trip of more than twenty-four hours. So St. Louis was chosen. But the probabilities are that, should California extend an invitation next year, the Association will come to our state. It last met in California in 1894.

Just because it is Summer time, and vacation time, don't let all your interest in and enthusiasm for your society work dissipate into thin nothingness. Remember that it is up to our medical organizations to see that the people of this state get proper public health laws and proper protection. We have got to do this work if it is to be done, and any one will grant that it should be done. Think about it this Summer and this Fall; find out who, in your vicinity, are going to be candidates for nomination to the legislature—and then see to it that they are properly educated in the matter of public health protection. Let them see just where the quack and the unlicensed, ignorant practitioner are a menace to themselves and their families; let them know just how an epidemic of small-pox or typhoid will hurt the whole community financially, and every single business interest in it. You can not begin this work too soon, for the political bee begins buzzing in the head of the office seeker very early; this Fall is the time to take up the work and keep it going until every possible candidate has been seen and talked with and has given his word that he will, if elected, vote properly upon all matters of public health legislation. And teach him, too, that there are always a few renegade physicians who will oppose the views and the recommendations of the united profession, for their own

personal and selfish ends. For instance, all bills tending to create special boards of examiners for special cults are merely bills to license additional numbers of incompetents. All bills tending to lower (or change—for the proposed "changes" are always downward, when they are analyzed) present medical standards are supported by selfish interests—generally by those connected with schools of one sort or another that can not or will not comply with the required standards or teach medicine properly. This information should be imparted long beforehand, for when a man once gets to the legislature he is too busy to give much time to any one particular thing; it is better that he should know beforehand and should have promised to keep in touch with his county medical society and take his advice from that body. When you are taking your vacation this year, think about these things and gather energy for the campaign in the Fall. There seems to be no good reason why we should not have a pretty well posted legislature next session if we devote a little time and energy to the work. It is worth while.

That is just what the Editor is going to do, and what he advises every one of you to do; take a *real* vacation, even if it is for only ten days or two weeks. Get away from all "shop"; don't think about anything medical; don't talk "cases" with any other physician; get away into the country, near to the inspiring voice in the soil and in the trees, and let Nature put new energy into you—new thoughts, new ambitions; broader plans and views. Take a real vacation of the mind and let yourself get out of the rut into which we all find our way by too steady and too narrow application. Take a vacation.

CRITICAL NOTES ON MELANCHOLIA AND OTHER MANIFESTATIONS OF THE DEPRESSION PSYCHOSIS.

By CLARENCE QUINAN, M. D., San Francisco.

A fairly extended experience with the acute psychoses, particularly melancholia, leads me to believe that a part of what passes among physicians for neurasthenia is nearly akin to alienation, and that formes frustes of mental disorders are more prevalent than we generally believe.

It is doubtful whether an adequate cause for this widespread mental instability may be discovered in modern conditions of living, though it is possible that crowding of population in large cities may conduce to psychic affections by lowering the general average of vitality. Were this the only cause we should be justified in concluding we pay too dearly for the manifold luxuries of twentieth century civilization; it is extremely probable, however, that indiscriminate crossing of vicious strains of human stock is the chief predisposing factor, and there is good reason to believe that this alone creates the psychopathic taint. Whatever the potential elements may be, at any rate, the fact remains